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**Amendments to Claims**

Please amend the claims as indicated in the listing below, which listing supercedes and replaces all prior listings of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital data system comprising  
  
a link that carries message packets,  
  
a first node sending a plurality of message packets to a second node on the link as a sequence of message packets, with each message packet being sent from the first node with a sequence identifier,  
  
the second node returning a control symbol to the first node for each packet received on the link along with the sequence identifier of the received message packet, and  
  
the first node responding to the control symbol to control the further transmission of message packets to the second node over the link.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A digital data system according to claim 1 3, wherein the second node returns a packet-not-accepted control symbol to the first node indicating receipt on the link of a message packet that is out of sequence.
5. (Original) A digital data system according to claim 4, wherein the first node responds to a packet-not-accepted control symbol by re-sending a portion of the sequence of message packets.
6. (Original) A digital data system according to claim 5, wherein the first node queries the second node for an identifier of a message packet in the sequence with which to begin resending.

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7. (Original) A digital data system comprising  
  
a link that carries message packets,  
  
a first node sending a plurality of message packets to a second node on the link,  
  
the second node returning a control symbol to the first node for each packet received on the link, the control symbol indicating a packet error, and  
  
the first node responding to the control symbol to control the further transmission of message packets to the second node over the link.
8. (Original) A digital data system according to claim 7, wherein the control symbol specifies identity of a received packet having an error condition.
9. (Original) A digital data system according to claim 7, wherein the control symbol identifies the type of packet error.
10. (Currently Amended) A digital data system according to claim 7, wherein the first node sending node transmits a message packet comprising a header portion and a data portion, at least said data portion including an error code, and wherein the second node applies said error code to detect the packet error.
11. (Currently Amended) A digital data system according to claim 7, wherein the first node sending node transmits a message packet comprising a header portion followed by a data portion, and  
  
the second node inspects at least a portion of the header portion to detect a first error condition,  
  
passing a symbol over the link to the first node to initiate retransmission when it detects the first error condition.
12. (Currently Amended) A digital data system according to claim 7, wherein the first node sending node is configured to transmit message packets of a first size including an initial number of bytes, and of a second size including a further number of bytes, and wherein

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a receiving node applies a first error code to the initial number of bytes  
whereby corruption of an initial portion of a packet is quickly detected without  
reference to a subsequent portion of the packet

13. (Original) A digital data system according to claim 12, wherein  
when a further number of bytes appear in the message packet, the receiving node applies a  
second error code to the further number of bytes.
14. (Original) A digital data system comprising  
first and second nodes connected by a first link,  
the first node sending a plurality of message packets to the second node over the first  
link, each message packet including an error code  
the second node checking the error code and sending a valid message packet to a further  
node over a further link,  
wherein the message packet includes a header portion and further portion  
at least a part of the header portion being a changeable part that may change as the message  
packet passes from the first link to the further link, and at least a part of the message packet  
being an invariant part that does not change  
whereby the error code need not be recalculated when the message packet passes to the  
further link.
15. (Original) A digital data system according to claim 14, wherein the changeable part  
includes a sequence identifier, and the second node compares the changeable part of a mes-  
sage packet with an expected sequence identifier to detect an error.
16. (Currently Amended) A digital data system comprising

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first and second nodes connected by a first link,

the first node sending a data from a buffer as a transmission sequence of one or more messages to the second node over the first link, each message including a sequence identifier in an initial portion of the message

the second node checking the initial portion to identify a faulty message reception

and communicating said sequence identifier to the first node with a symbol indicating whether reception was proper such that the first node sending node may respond to the symbol by clearing the buffer or retransmitting at least a portion of the transmission sequence.

17. (Currently Amended) A digital data system comprising

first and second nodes connected by a first link,

the first node sending a plurality of message packets to the second node over the first link with each message packet being sent from the first node with a sequence identifier,

the second sending the message packets to a further node over a further link,

the second node returning a control symbol to the first node for each packet received therefrom the first link along with the sequence identifier of the received message packet,

the first node responding to control symbol to control the further transmission of message packets to the second node over the link,

such that transmission of data packets from the first node to the further node proceeds efficiently.